

Dear Mr. Walter:

Your letter of February 12, 1959, requested comments of the Department of State on H. R. 3880 which would establish a Freedom Academy whose principal functions would be the development of systematic knowledge about the international Communist conspiracy, the development of counter-action to the conspiracy into an operational science, and the education and training of private citizens and Government employees of the United States and other countries in these matters.

As you may know, the Department is seeking in its appropriations request for Fiscal Year 1960 funds for additional personnel to strengthen the Department's ability to cope with world Communist political and economic activities. The challenge of international Communism requires that we discern and fully understand the various facets of the Communist menace and correctly evaluate its every move and thrust. For this purpose, it is the Department's belief that it must increase the number of its personnel who are experts in this field and whose full time can be devoted to observing the maneuvers of international Communism on a global scale and in formulating policies, devices and tactics to meet these maneuvers.

Accordingly, the Department is in agreement with the basic objective of H. R. 3880 to increase knowledge and understanding of the international Communist menace. Believing that the general understanding of this matter is in need of improvement, the Department looks with favor upon any move which would enlarge public understanding of this problem.

However, certain aspects of the proposals in H. R. 3880 deserve further consideration. For example, resentment might be created in various neutral countries, and even among our allies, if we should set up an institute, one of the purposes of which would be to inculcate in their nationals our ideas with regard to Communism. It might, therefore, be preferable for any educational institution maintained by the United States Government for the purpose of combating Communism to concentrate its activities on American citizens. The Congress might also consider that more American youth might be

given

The Honorable
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given an understanding of what Communism really means, if the Government would give assistance to existing private and official educational institutions, which would enable them to devote more attention to the subject of Communism. In this connection, the Department of State is currently considering ways and means by which the training of Foreign Service Officers on this subject can be improved.

The importance of this general topic to the welfare of our country cannot be over-emphasized. The Department of State would welcome constructive public discussions of ways and means by which general understanding of the international Communist menace can be improved, and the menace itself defeated.